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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/001,438	10/24/2001	Richard F. Lyon	514512000100	2426
28661	7590	11/12/2003		
SIERRA PATENT GROUP, LTD.				
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			EXAMINER	
			SONG, HOOON K	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2882				

DATE: MAIL: 11/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/001,438	Applicant(s) LYON ET AL	
	Examiner Hoon Song	Art Unit 2882	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2003.

2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 and 30-37 is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 28 and 29 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 February 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some c) ☐ None of:

1) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fossum et al. (US 5949483).

Regarding claim 28, Fossum teaches a method of controlling a group of active pixel sensors comprising:

for each of a plurality of particular subgroups (603) of the group of active pixel sensors (603) such that buffered voltage sensor signals (610) of the active pixel sensors of the particular subgroup are substantially simultaneously coupled to an output node to provide a collective output signal for the particular subgroup (column 11 line 23+); and recording at the output node an indication of the collective output signal (column 11 line 54+).

Regarding claim 29, Fossum teaches an image sensor comprising:

a collection of active pixel sensors configured to generate buffered voltage sensor signal output (610);

circuitry to control the collection of active pixel sensors such that, for each of a plurality of particular subgroups (603) of the group of active pixel sensor, the buffered voltage sensor signal outputs (610) of the active pixel sensors of the particulars

subgroup are substantially simultaneously coupled to an output node of an image sensor to provide a collective output signal for the particular subgroup (column 11 line 23+).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-27 and 30-37 are allowed over prior art.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: None of the prior art teaches or suggest that sensor output selection circuitry configured to selectively couple a buffered voltage sensor signal to an output of the active pixel sensor when the row to which the active sensor belongs is selected based on one of a set of row select signals corresponding to the row and row select signal generating circuitry configured to generate a set of row select signals to substantially simultaneously select a corresponding set of plural particular rows such that each of active pixel sensors in the selected corresponding set of plural particular rows substantially simultaneously provides the buffered voltage sensor signal for that active pixel sensor to the column line for the column to which that active pixel sensor belongs such that an output node of each column line indicates a collective output signal for the active pixel sensors in that selected corresponding set of plural particular rows as claimed in independent claims.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP


§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoon Song whose telephone number is 703-308-2736. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5 PM, Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Glick can be reached on 703-308-4858. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.


DAVID V. BRUCE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Hoon Song HKS